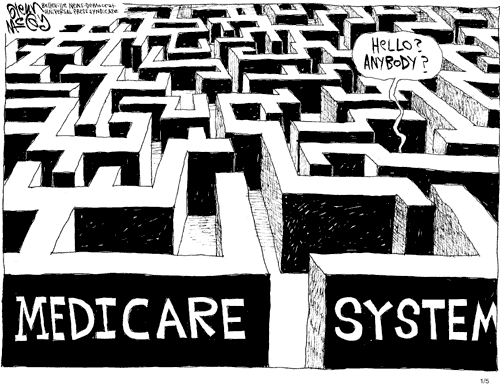
Medicare Station

Justice Department charges 94 people with health-care fraud

*By Jerry Markon*



**1. How does the cartoon above criticize the government –run Medicare program?**

Washington Post Staff Writer   
Friday, July 16, 2010; 9:14 PM

The Justice Department stepped up its crackdown on Medicare cheats Friday, announcing charges against 94 people in what authorities called the largest health-care fraud sting in U.S. history.

Federal agents fanned out across five states to arrest defendants accused of bilking [cheating] the Medicare system out of more than $251 million through false claims for services that were medically unnecessary or never provided. Among those charged, officials said, are doctors and health-care company owners and executives. Thirty-six of the defendants had been arrested as of Friday afternoon.

In one alleged $70 million scheme operated out of a New York clinic, more than 1,000 cash kickbacks were paid to Medicare beneficiaries out of a designated "kickback room."

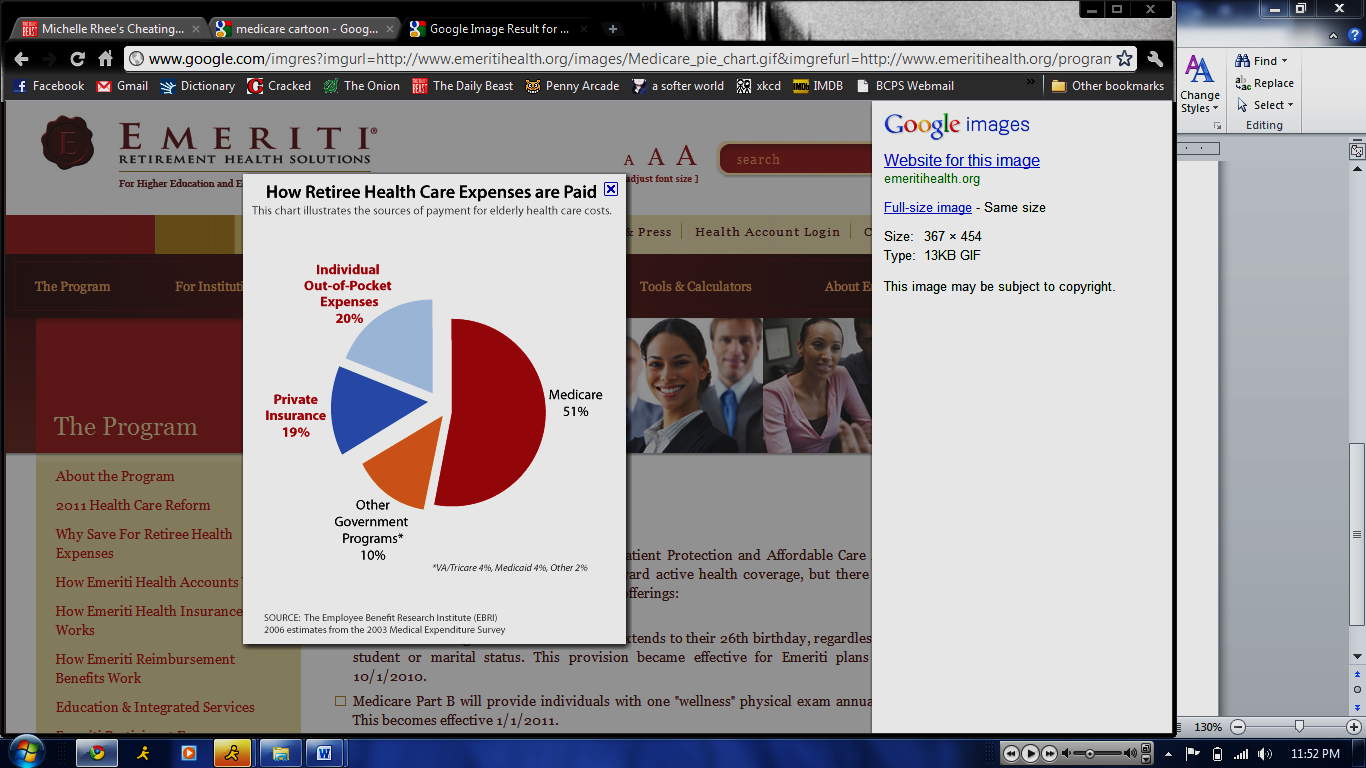
The cost of Medicare, which covers the elderly and disabled, and Medicaid, its sister program for the poor, are growing as the American population ages, giving new urgency to initiatives to detect and prevent phony claims. Health-care fraud is believed to rob the nation's coffers of billions of dollars each year.

In May 2009, the administration launched a high-level task force, the Health Care Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Action Team, which uses electronic claims data -- and the threat of federal prosecution -- to seek out illicit billing.

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| **2. How did these individuals defraud (con) the Medicare system?**  **3. Will the government actions above make Medicare service better or worse? Explain why?** |

**How Retiree Health Care Expenses are Paid**

This chart illustrates the sources of payment for elderly health costs.



**5. What effect would Medicare cuts have on the elderly population?**

Check out the New Medicare Changes

Posted Tuesday, March 29, 2011, at 9:27 AM

**Access to a new Physician Compare Website**

A new CMS Healthcare Provider Directory is now available through the Physician Compare Website. This consumer-friendly site is designed to help beneficiaries and their families locate and compare health professionals in communities across the country. You can find the contact information for a physician, gender, what their specialties are, where they completed their degree as well as residency or other clinical training, what language(s) they speak and whether or not they participate in the Medicare program.

(From <http://www.dddnews.com/blogs/1299/entry/40651/>)

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| **4.Will the Medicare change above encourage more people to see out medical help? Explain why or why not.** |